[Mr Deputy Chairman]

Clauses 2 to 8 were added to the Bill

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we will take up the next Bill.

THE CINEMATOGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1984

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, at this stage I would make only a very brief observation as to why this Bill is being brought. Because of the video boom in the country, there are reports that uncertified video films are being exhibited on a large scale. A large number of video parlours have sprung up all over the country and they exhibit such films recorded on video tapes by charging admission fee from the clients. Among other things, this has also hit the Indian film industry very adversely. It is felt that there should be more stringent punishment provided in the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the curb this practice of exhibiting uncertified Indian/foreign films by video parlours, etc. Hence this Bill for enhancing the penalties provided under section 7 of the Act as also prescribing minimum punishment for exhibiting uncertified films.

Sir, the net effect of these provisions would be to increase the punishment, to provide a minimum penalty. As a consequence this is read with section 513 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and the offences will become non-bailable. Of course even now they are cognizable and in view of the new provisions also they will remain cognizable.

Sir, I commend the Bill to the House.

The question was proposed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is one amendment by Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya. . . He is not here This Bill has to be finished today and so we have to sit a bit late. Shrimati Ila Bhattacharya.

*SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA (Tripura): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Hon. Minister has moved the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 1984, today in the House. video is spreading corruption in our country. This Bill seeks to enhance the punishment for those who are guilty of spreading the corruption through video. I support this Bill. But before supporting this Bill I would like to make certain observations. I hope my observations will receive due consideration from the Government.

Cinema is a great industry in our country. This industry can move the society backward or forward. So the Government in every country has a special responsibility to this industry. Cinema industry has progressed much in our country. Our films have already earned international recognition. Producers like Shri Satyajit Ray, Shri Sham Benegal and Shri Ritwik Ghatak have produced many films of educative value. These films can take the society forward. But in proportion to the expansion of cinema industry in our country, good films have been produced in less number. Multiplicity of low standard films have brought degeneration in society. The society is already moving backward with the growth of bad films in the

*English translation of original speech delivered in Bengali.

country. That is why the Hon. Minister has felt the necessity to amend the parent Act. The Government will have to recognise the effects of bad films on our society.

In modern times cinema can provide education to the people. This medium can also rouse their social consciousness. But the cinema industry is going in a wrong direction. This medium is not being used for the welfare of the people though it has a great opportunity to do so.

Many countries in the world have reached the greatest height of development. Those countries have achieved their development through struggles. The film producers in our country could have produced films based on the struggles that took place in those developed countries. Such films could have been shown to our students in Schools and Colleges. In that situation the youth in our country could have been attracted to science and evolution of world civilization. The films, based on human struggle, could have enthused our youth to adopt constructive path in life. Such films could have inspired our youth to build the nation.

I will, of course, say that some documentary films of educative value have been produced in our country. But such documentary films are very few in number. Most of the films, being produced in our country, are moving our youth backward.

Most of the people in our country live in rural areas. They primarily depend upon agriculture. In our country Punjab has developed very much agriculturally. We can produce films on the methods Punjab adopted to bring about agricultural development. Such films can be shown to our farmers. Again, the population in our country is increasing astronomically. Family Planning programme aims at controlling the present growth of population. We can produce films on family planning programmes which will motivate our people to adopt family planning as part of their life. Will the hon. Minister tell me how many films he has produced to tell the illiterate people in our villages as to the benefits of a small family. What steps the Hon. Minister has taken to see that the medium of film should be utilised to spread the message of family planning among our illiterate people. I am sure that films based on family planning have been produced very few in number. Even such films are being exhibited in one or two States only. So my submission is that more and more films of educative value should be produced in our country because such films alone can lead our people to social progress.

Cinema industry can contribute a lot to the development of society. It can inform the people about the various events that are taking place in the world. A war-psychosis has already developed in the world due to stock-piling of nuclear weapons. People are very much scared of another world war. So, efforts are being made for disarmament. We can create public opinion against another war through films based on disarmament. Film Council of Africa has produced a film on the evil effects of war. That film has enabled the people of Africa to create public opinion against the imperialist forces who are bent upon unleasing another war in the world. Similarly, our Government can also direct our film producers to produce such films which will rouse our people against another world war. But such a direction is not coming from our Government.

Very few films are being produced in our country which make our people aware of their surroundings. Similarly, very few films, based on important world events, are being produced here. Such films should be produced in greater number to inspire our students and youth. Rather, obscene films are being produced in great number. Even women are being shown in naked form in many films. So, the obscene films are spreading nothing but corruption in society. Films are teaching people how to commit thefts and decoities,

[Shrimati Ila Bhattacharya]

Sex-appeal is also spreading like anything through films. Our youth is being misguided through scenes of murders and cheating in films.

It is the plan of vested interests to encourage perversion in society. Gready business men are interested in profits only. That is why they have produced films based on rapes. In the newspapers we come across the incidents of rape daily. Such films help spread rape cases in the country. They are making our youth adopt sub-cultures. So, obscene films must be banned.

The business men in our country are killing two birds with one stone. One the one hand, they are earning lakhs of rupees and, on the other, they are poisoning the minds of our youth through obscene films so that they cannot think of their future and the future of the nation. The business men want that our youth should not be inspired by socialist movement. They also want that our youth should not lead the nation to the path of socialism.

The present Bill seeks to stop video shows. Today our country is flooded with video shows.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. The time is over now.

SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: There are many points to be raised here. This is a very important issue

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then continue after some time.

STATEMENT RE. SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now the statement by hon. Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, recent developments in Sri Lanka are causing us deep concern. There have been reports of sharp deterioration in the security situation in the Northern part of Sri Lanka, resulting in large-scale loss of human life and property. There have also been reports of encounters between Sri Lankan State security forces and Tamil militants. The Sri Lanka security forces have suffered some casualties. Two Naval personnel are reported to have been killed in the violence and a senior police official died in his office in a bomb explosion. Loss of Tamil lives and property have been far greater. There have been reports of large-scale arrests in the Northern province. It has been reported that the town of Velvettiturali has been evtensively shelled by the Sri Lankan Navy causing very heavy loss of life and property there. A very large number of people have been rendered homeless and are accommodated in school buildings and elsewhere. These tragic happenings have caused deep agony and shock.

As the House is aware, We have repeatedly expressed our opposition to all forms of violence and have reaffirmed our support for Sri Lanka's integrity and unity. We have taken all steps to curb any activities which may be directed against Sri Lanka from our soil. The Prime Minister has condemned the outrage at the Madras Airport on 2 August 1984, in which 29 persons died. It is, therefore, both deplorable and regrettable that responsible leaders of Sri Lanka continue to make baseless allegations against India for providing sanctuary and support to Tamil militants. I would like to reiterate once again that such false and unfounded allegations can only create unnecessary misunderstanding in the relations between the two countries.

At a time when the All Parties Conference is continuing, any escalation or confrontation of this nature would only jeopardise the political dialogue going on at present. The current situation in Northern Sri Lanka is tense and disturbed and calls for concerted